

Too Much Data Blurs Issues, Writer Says

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Robert Penn Warren agrees with critics of U.S. policy that we aren't getting enough information about Viet-Nam and Santo Domingo. But, he thinks it may be because there is entirely too much information available.

The Pulitzer Prize winning novelist said yesterday that he was alarmed that "the most staggering events can happen now by means of a kind of drift in foreign policy."

"There is so much information available to the huge military establishments and enormous states now that at no single point can we say 'this is a showdown.'"

"We are being overwhelmed with information. And not only in foreign policy. There is just too much to evaluate

and no way and no time to do it any more.

"We just may pass a technological and historical moment when you aren't going to be able to find answers any more."

The novelist made headlines last week when he joined 19 other American artists who approved poet Robert Lowell's rejection of an invitation to the June 15 White House Festival of the American Arts.

Lowell wrote President Johnson of his "dismay and distrust" of the Administration's foreign policy.

Yesterday Warren said he had not been invited to the White House festival but would have "thought seriously about accepting a bid."

Warren is in town with 2200 authors, publishers and booksellers for the three-day American Booksellers Association convention, which opens today at the Shoreham.

He published recently a series of interviews with leading civil rights figures called "Who Speaks for the Negro?"

The opening business session of the convention will hear Richard H. Rovere, Washington correspondent of the New Yorker. Tonight the convention will hear Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., special assistant to President Kennedy.